CHAPTER X

BUSINESS

Initial attempts to establish businesses in Wasatch County were necessarily sporadic. It could hardly have been otherwise since none of the original settlers had the capital to open a business; and a medium of exchange except for a few barterable articles, was not available. This chapter will, in tracing the beginning of business in the county, account the various ways in which sufficient capital to carry on business was raised.
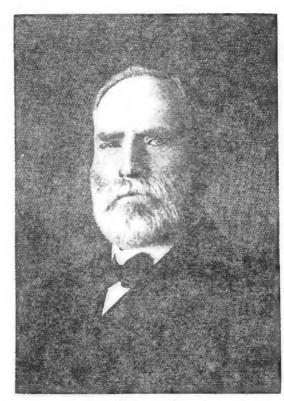
Early attempts at merchandising were sponsored by men outside Wasatch County. Alex Wilkens, from Provo, first offered goods for sale on his ranch in the lower end of the valley in the summer and fall of 1861. Charles Shelton, later the county clerk, lived on the ranch and sold goods for Wilkens.[1]

John Crook describes the nature of transactions in those days:

> I well remember loading a big spring calf in my wagon one afternoon in the fall of 1861 and going to market. My wife, who went along to make the purchase of goods, returned with a small bundle of dry goods that you might crowd in your pocket. Dainties such as tea, coffee, sugar, etc., had to be dispensed with by the poorer class of people in those days. In fact we were all in about the same rank at that time. Our clothing was mostly in rags, we had been using old wagon covers and sacks made into clothing to cover our nakedness. We were glad to get something new for a change.[2]

Log cabins also housed other early businesses. Andrew J. Ross offered goods for sale in a cabin on Jesse

Bond's lot in Heber, and was followed by Snyder and Company from Wanship, who used William Davidson's cabin. William Jennings of Salt Lake City took over the

Mark Jeffs

trade when Snyder and Company withdrew a year or two later. He hired John Davis as his clerk. Finally John Witt of Heber began merchandising in much the same manner.

Mark Jeffs md:
(1) Mary Carlile
(2)   Lee
(3) Lizzie Egner

Crook, "History of Wasatch County," _Wasatch Wave_, December 14, 1889.
[2]_Ibid._